



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 7, 2004

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FEDERAL JURY FINDS CRYSTAL CITY POLICE OFFICER GUILTY

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that a federal jury seated in Del Rio, Texas, convicted 34-year-old Jimmy Aguilar, a Crystal City Police officer, of three offenses related to a 2001 civil rights violation.

"Today's conviction is a victory for the rule of law and a reminder that no one is above the law. Our law enforcement officers face difficulties and danger everyday but nothing justifies abusive conduct", stated **U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton**.

The jury found that on August 7, 2001, while acting under color of law, the defendant, Jimmy Aguilar deprived Victor Hugo Jimenez of his civil rights as protected by the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. While Victor Hugo Jimenez was restrained and in handcuffs, the defendant severely beat and then jammed the barrel of a firearm into Jimenez' mouth which resulted in bodily injury.

The jury also found that on October 13, 2003, Aguilar attempted to corruptly persuade a Zavala County Sheriff's Deputy to withhold truthful testimony from a federal grand jury concerning the August 7, 2001, circumstances surrounding the beating sustained by Victor Hugo Jimenez while in police custody.

Finally, the jury convicted Aguilar of providing a false statement on November 15, 2001, to a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation who was conducting an investigation into the incident. Aguilar told the agent that the victim was not handcuffed during the course of his arrest when in fact, he had been handcuffed prior to the time Aguilar took custody of the victim.

On November 12, 2003, a federal grand jury indicted Aguilar on four charges. The jury this afternoon acquitted Aguilar of Count 2, use of a firearm during a crime of violence.

Following the verdict, U.S. District Judge Alia Ludlum immediately revoked Aguilar's \$50,000 cash bond and ordered him remanded to the custody of the United States Marshals Service pending sentencing. As a result of his conviction, Aguilar faces up to 25 years in federal prison and a maximum \$750,000 fine. Judge Ludlum will sentence Aguilar after a pre-sentence report is completed by the U.S. Probation office.

This case was investigated by the Del Rio Resident Agency Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Bill Baumann and Robert Moossy, a trial attorney from the Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice, are prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

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